

Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Park

Directions to the various Visitor Centers may be found [here](#) .



The [C&O Canal](#) follows the route of the Potomac River for 184.5 miles from Washington, D.C. to Cumberland, Maryland. The canal operated from 1828 to 1924 as a transportation route, primarily hauling coal from western Maryland to the port of Georgetown in Washington, D.C. The canal linked the rapidly growing west to the east and played an important part in the growth and development of our country.

Original structures, including locks, lockhouses, and aqueducts, serve as reminders of the canal's role as a transportation system during the Canal Era. In addition, the canal's towpath provides a nearly level, trail through the eye-catching scenery of the Potomac River Valley. Visitors come to hike or bike the C&O Canal in order to enjoy the natural, cultural, and recreational opportunities available.

Visitors can also enjoy a mule-drawn canal boat ride at Georgetown or Great Falls while park rangers in period clothing describe what life was like for the families that lived and worked on the canal. [Ticket purchases](#) are required for the boat ride.

There are many access points to the park and the C&O Canal has a number of [visitor centers](#) along the length of the canal filled with information and exhibits.

Times of Operation

The park is open all daylight hours. Some of the park's six [visitor center](#) s operate on a seasonal schedule.

Georgetown: 1057 Thomas Jefferson St., NW, Washington, DC 20007 (202) 653-5190

Great Falls Tavern: 11710 MacArthur Blvd, Potomac, MD 20854 (301) 299-3613

Brunswick: 40 West Potomac Street Brunswick, MD 21716 (301) 834-7100

Williamsport: 205 W. Potomac St., Williamsport, MD 21795 (301) 582-0813

Hancock: 326 E. Main St., Hancock, MD 21750 (301) 678-5463

Western Maryland Station: Room 304, 13 Canal St., Cumberland, MD 21502 (301) 722-8226

There is a \$5.00 per vehicle entrance fee charged at the Great Falls area of the C&O Canal. Individual passes are \$3.00 and apply to visitors entering the park on foot, horseback, bicycle, and motorcycle. All passes are also valid on the Virginia side of the falls at the Great Falls Park as well as any other National Park for a specified period, depending on the type of pass purchased. For more information on fees and annual passes, visit the [NPS Fees](#) page.

C&O Canal National Historic Park Links

- [C&O Canal National Historic Park NPS Website](#)
- [C&O Canal National Historic Park NPS In-Depth Website](#)
- [C&O Canal Visitor Centers](#)
- [Recreation Information](#)
- [Mule-Drawn Canal Boat Rides](#)
- [NPS Fees](#)
- [Towpath Slide Show](#)

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